



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
OREGON

January 26, 2023

Oregon House of Representatives

900 Court St., NE

Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2532- Chronic Wasting Disease Funding

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

For the record, my name is Karl J. Findling, Oregon Board member speaking on behalf of hundreds of Oregon's Backcountry Hunters and Angler members. We support this action today to help prevent CWD from entering our state.

Chronic Wasting Disease is knocking on Oregon's door. Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is similar to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease for humans, or think of Mad Cow disease. It represents a significant threat to Oregon's already-in-trouble deer herds. CWD is now found in 29 states and three Provinces in Canada. And, just one year ago, our neighbors in Idaho found CWD in deer just across the Snake River.

This Bill goes a long way to getting funding and movement ahead of this disease before CWD arrives. Oregon sportsmen and women are concerned about the potential for CWD to spread into Oregon, impacting healthy ungulate populations and habitat. The deleterious effects that CWD would have on Oregon's ungulate populations cannot be overstated.

The funds allocated from General Fund under HB 2532 can also be used to help secure matching federal funds that are available for CWD research-- the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Research and Management Act was recently included in the Omnibus Budget Bill and appropriates \$19.5 million for CWD efforts in 2023.

December, 8th, 2021, the CWD Research and Management Act (HR5608), passed in the U.S. House of Representatives, with a 393-33 vote, shows broad bi-partisan support for our nation's wildlife. Arriving December 9, in the U.S. Senate, It is now awaiting a vote. This Bill will direct the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to address chronic wasting disease. \$70 Million annually,



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will be disbursed to the states-half for research, and half for management. Priority will be given to states with existing surveillance plans, or highest threat of emergent cases.

Also, we urge the use of recommendations from Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, or WAFWA, 2018 edition, and any subsequent updates to the manual. These best practices are available, as our ODFW Biologists are aware.

Where to Learn More

www.WAFWA.org A 2016 Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency publication (WAFWA), has a comprehensive report on managing CWD across the west.

www.usgs.gov The United States Geological Survey (USGS), has released multiple fact sheets and reports, listing managing outbreaks, and surveillance programs.

www.CSF.org

www.TRCP.org

www.NWF.org

www.cdc.gov/cwd/index.html

www.cwd-info CWD Alliance organization

Sincerely,

Karl J. Findling | Central Oregon Region Director, Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



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